



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana  
VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 36 • Sept. 18, 2009



## IM Weekly Highlights

- Roger Hays, Lewis and Clark County, and Roger Smith, IM, were heavily involved in the Vigilant Guard Earthquake Exercise this week. Together, they designed the communications plan for the exercise and facilitated interconnection between the Montana National Guard and the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office. Way to go guys!
- Outreach meetings continued in the Central Consortium this last week.
- Motorola announced that the central portion of the Northern Tier Project is ready for acceptance.
- Civil construction at the Bull Mountain site is progressing well. The new shelter has been installed and the generator hooked up. Next week, the new tower will be installed.
- Construction has started and is progressing well on several sites that are part of the Southwest Loop.
- The IM is moving ahead on multiple contracts across the state.
- Due to the IM's current construction activities, the Customer Programming Software (CPS) training on code plugs will not occur Oct. 13-14 as previously announced. A new date will be set for sometime after the snow flies. The HAM will keep you posted.

## Motorola Offers Special Year-End Promotion to IMPD

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Because of the volume of existing Motorola radios in Montana that need to be flash upgraded, the HAM wants to let its readers know about a special year-end promotion offered by Motorola to members of the Interoperability Montana Project. Mark Canton, Motorola, announced two promotions this week that run from now until Dec. 15, 2009, as follows:

1. When purchasing a new Motorola trunked radio, buyers may also purchase a flash upgrade for an existing unit and receive a one-time discount on the flash upgrade, ranging from \$250 to \$500 per radio off WSCA pricing, depending on the model.
2. Various discounts also are available on radio purchases without ordering a flash upgrade.

Mark encourages folks to contact him or their local Motorola dealer if they have questions. His e-mail is [mcanton@motorola.com](mailto:mcanton@motorola.com), or he may be reached at (406) 245-3309 or (406) 698-8489 (cell).

## Save the Dates!

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Mark your calendars! The 2009 Montana APCO Conference is scheduled for Wed. and Thurs., Oct. 28-29 in Missoula at the Holiday Inn Parkside, 200 South Pattee St. Additionally, COPS technical assistance training is scheduled on Tues., Oct. 27. Last week, the HAM inadvertently reported that this training is taking place in conjunction with the Montana APCO conference in Billings rather than Missoula. Many apologies for the slip up.

APCO International's popular Active Shooter Incidents for Public Safety Communications course also has been scheduled on both Mon., Oct. 26 and Tues., Oct. 27 to coincide with the conference. Watch for details on the Montana APCO web site: <http://www.mtapco.org>. Registration is now open.

**Register today!**

## National Guard Awards Contract; Announces Armories to be Connected

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The Montana National Guard received seven bids for connecting its armories to the IM backbone using last-mile microwave hop technology. An evaluation process was undertaken, and an award was made to Industrial Communications & Equipment in Billings, MT to build six microwave hops.

The contract was signed last week, and a kick-off meeting is scheduled for Tues., Sept. 22. It is expected that the vendor will start conducting site walks within a few weeks.

The six armories selected for the build out are located in Belgrade, Culbertson, Dillon, Havre, Kalispell and Lewistown.

## IM Project Directors Hold Instructive Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Kevin Bruski, IM Executive Director, provided his monthly update at the IM Project Directors meeting on Sept. 9 in Helena, reporting that outreach meetings are going well, the number of sites under contract, tower bids and the second master controller. He also indicated that another SOP workshop is scheduled to take place in Missoula in conjunction with the Montana Chapter of APCO conference on Oct. 27. In addition, he

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said that a productive meeting took place with representatives of the U.S. Border Patrol.

Dave Hinds, Malmstrom Air Force Base, gave an update on U.S. Air Force (USAF) progress on communications sites in the Central Consortium, while Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, informed the group about progress on the USAF Remote Visual Assessment (RVA) project.

IM Finance Officer and IM Governance Committee Chair Bill Fleiner gave both the Finance and Governance Committee reports. The board passed three motions to approve reconfiguration of T-1 mapping from the Sullivan site to Helena, combiner work on the King, Windy Hill, and Plentywood sites in the Northern Tier and the three recommended phases of Northern Tier system acceptance.

***The board passed three motions. . .***

Ian Marquand gave a report on the Sustainability Plan Outreach meetings and summarized feedback obtained thus far. Dave McPherson has stepped down as Business Practices/SOP Sub-Committee Chair, so anyone interested in this position is asked to contact Bill Fleiner. Kevin Bruski gave the IM Technical Committee update and distributed the southwest loop construction schedule.

The next IMPD meeting is Wed., Oct. 14 at the MACo offices, 2715 Skyway Drive, in Helena from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

### **I-15/90 Consortium Meeting Informative**

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

IM Project Director Dave McPherson informed consortium members at the Sept. 17 meeting of the I-15/90 Corridor Consortium that permission was granted for the cold-installed trunking equipment at Red Mountain to be removed and used at the Pinkham site in Lincoln County, given that Red Mountain frequencies are still not licensed after a 35-month wait with the FCC. Dave also distributed copies of a letter he sent to Senator Max Baucus' office to make him aware that the FCC did not honor its commitment to have the licensing issues resolved by last February. Fleet mapping training for the consortium will be delayed until Butte Silver-Bow is closer to getting these frequencies.

Bob McWilliams gave a detailed report on the construction of PSIC-funded southwest loop projects. He outlined the status of power installation and construction activities at the Antelope, Ellis, Mauer, KONA and Sierra sites. Three shelters are scheduled to arrive on Oct. 8. He also said that the purchase order for the tower at Lost Creek has been sent out. Two contractors are in the process of

providing quotes to upgrade existing shelters at Lost Creek and XL Heights. Bob indicated that work on the shelter and tower at Bull Mountain is moving along. Completion of this site is important for microwave connectivity to Bozeman.

Members heard a report on the last IM Technical Committee (IMTC) and IM Project Directors (IMPD) meetings. Bob McWilliams gave additional insights on the three motions that were approved. Members also discussed progress on radio installations in Beaverhead County.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thurs., Oct. 15 at the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George Street, at 10:00 am.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **IM Outreach Meetings**

[http://interop.mt.gov/im\\_outreach\\_meetings.mcp](http://interop.mt.gov/im_outreach_meetings.mcp)

- **Montana State Fire Chiefs Association Convention**

Red Lion Colonial, 2301 Colonial Dr., Helena

IM Vendor Exhibit:

Fri., Sept. 18 - 12:00 (noon) to 6:00 pm

Sat., Sept. 19 - 7:00 am to 2:00 pm

- **Montana Association of Counties (MACo) Annual Conference**

Red Lion Colonial, 2301 Colonial Dr., Helena

IM Presentation: Wed. Sept. 23 - 10:30 - 11:15 pm

- **Montana Emergency Medical Services Association (MEMSA) 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

Billings Hotel and Convention Center, 1223

Mullowney Lane, Billings

Presentation: Fri, Oct. 2 - 3:30 to 5:00 pm

- 9-1-1 Update, Becky Berger

- Interoperability Montana (Public Safety Radio) Update, Kevin Bruski

- **DES Fall Conference**

Yogo Inn, 211 E Main St., Lewistown, MT

IM Presentation: Fri., Oct. 9 - 11:30 am

### **Sept. 23 (Wed.)**

Eastern Tier (ETIC)

Glendive • 10:00 am

Dawson County Courthouse Community Room, 207 W. Bell

### **Sept. 24 (Thurs.)**

Big Sky 11 Consortium

Billings • 8:30 am Technical Committee

- 10:00 am Board Meeting

Yellowstone County Fire Station, 2305 8th Ave. N.

### **Sept. 28 (Mon.)**

IM Technical Committee

Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

MACo Large Conference Rm., Lower Level, 2715 Skyway Dr.

### **Oct. 27 (Tues.)**

Technical Assistance Training

Missoula • Holiday Inn Parkside

200 South Pattee St.

### **Oct. 28-29 (Wed.-Thurs.)**

Montana APCO Conference

Missoula • Holiday Inn Parkside, 200 South Pattee St.

More information at: <http://www.mtapco.org>